the Women Special Entry Scheme, under which lady officers in the Army could not go beyond the rank of Captain; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this decision has not been implemented as yet and if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Women Special Entry Scheme (Officers) has been closed and women officers in the Army will be inducted through the Short Service Commission Officers entry.

(b) No, Sir.

Bungling in defence purchases

†909. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to stop bungling in defence purchases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Defence purchases are made in accordance with Defence Procurement Procedure 2005 for capital procurement and Defence Procurement Manual 2005 for revenue stores. These documents incorporate several provisions to ensure transparency, accountability and to cut down on delays in the procurement process. These are reviewed from time to time and as required amendments and clarifications are issued. Constant endeavour is made to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces with highest degree of probity, public accountability and transparency in a competitive environment.

Russian warships purchased by India

910. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has purchased a warship from Russia recently; if so, the Russian name and changed Indian name thereof;

(b) what actual life of this ship was fixed in Russia, and how far it has been extended to become an Indian Ship, and how powerful it would be;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what is the price of this ship and how far India would protect herself from Chinese Naval power; and

(d) by when this warship would suit to India and at that time what shall be naval power of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Contracts and Supplementary Agreements were signed with Russia on 20.1.2004 for the induction of aircraft carrier "Admiral Gorshkov". The aircraft carrier is undergoing necessary repairs/modifications in Russia at present. The Russian name of the aircraft carrier is "Admiral Gorshkov" and the ship will be named "Vikramaditya" after its induction into the Indian Navy.

(b) The ship would be available to Indian Navy for over 20 years after its repairs and refurbishment in Russia. With the induction of the "Aircraft Carrier", the defensive and offensive capability of the navy would be enhanced considerably.

(c) and (d) The cost of repair and refurbishment of the carrier is 974.28 million USD. The aircraft carrier is scheduled to be delivered by end 2008. Indian Navy is fully prepared to protect the maritime interest and integrity of the country.

Cases of Gujarat riots handed over to CBI

911. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases related to Gujarat riots, which have been handed over to the CBI;

(b) the status of those cases; and

(c) by when the investigation is expected to be concluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) One case relating to the Gujarat riots has been handed over to the CBI. Details of the case are as under:

Limkheda Police Station (District-Dahod) Crime, Register No. 59/2002, investigated by local police and tried by JMFC, Limkheda and closed accepting the 'A' final report, was handed over to CBI and registered as case No. R.C.1/S/2004-Mum in the CBI SCB on 1.1.2004 under orders dated 16.12.2003 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Criminal Writ Petition No. 118/2003 and Criminal Misc. Petition No. 8650/2003.